



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

Arizona Early Childhood Development & Health Board

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the First Things First – Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on February 26 and 27, 2008 at 4000 N. Central, Ste. 800, Phoenix, Arizona 85012.

Day One – February 26, 2008

Vice Chair Pasquinelli welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Rhian Evans Allvin, Pamela Powell, Vivian Saunders, Paul Luna, Gary Pasquinelli, Gene Thompson, and Steven Lynn

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Susan Gerard, Tracy Wareing and Amy Corriveau

Absent:

Nadine Mathis Basha and Cecil Patterson

Consent Agenda

The items on the Consent Agenda include the Minutes of the December 12, 2007 and January 22 & 23, 2008, Board Meetings. Motion was made by Steve Lynn to adopt the Consent Agenda, Seconded by Gene Thompson. Motion approved.

Members Updates

There were no Member updates.

Call to the Public

Peggy Stemmler, Member of the First Things First Health Work Group and the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, addressed the Board on the need for an expanded system for intervention services if proposing increased developmental screenings.

Healthy Families Presentation by Rebecca Ruffner

Rebecca Ruffner with Prevent Child Abuse Arizona presented to the Board an overview of Healthy Families Arizona program. She stated that currently, 58 agencies in over 150 communities throughout the State of Arizona are providing services to almost 7000 families. Ms. Ruffner presented issues on infant and toddlers at risk for developmental delay and the effects on their healthy development. Ms Ruffner addressed the goals of Healthy Families and how they align with the First Things First goals.

Executive Director Report

Elliott Hibbs, Executive Director, presented to the Board his monthly report which included updates on the following:

First Things First Timelines

Mr. Hibbs reviewed with the Board the accelerated timeframe, key action dates and proposed modifications related to the regional grant process. He discussed the proposed accelerated timeframes to meet the statutory dates.

John Ordini, Assistant Director, Finance Division, presented the regional grant process flow chart and discussed the six phases and the major tasks related to these phases.

It was a consensus of the board to move ahead with the accelerated timeline.

Regional Needs and Assets Process

Michelle Katona, Assistant Director, Regions Division, stated to the Board that First Things First will be identifying a consultant team to work with the Councils to begin the Regional Needs and Assets process in order to meet the deadline for completion.

Operation Budget

Expenditures continue to fall below the projected budget. Personnel services and employee related expenses were under budget due to longer time frames to fill positions.

Professional Services for consulting contracts was over budget due to higher usage for finalization of the regional boundaries and needs and assets reports and facilitation for work group meetings and the strategic planning session. Equipment and other operating expenditures in January were also over budget, due to the timing of purchases. Additionally, a security system was added at the First Things First Phoenix building. Overall expenditures are under budget and at the end of the year it is anticipated that equipment and other operating expenditures will be under budget.

FTF collected 14M in tobacco taxes and a little over \$500,000 in interest earnings revenue in January 2008. Almost 100M has been collected year-to-date for FTF, and are being distributed according to statute with 10% going in to the administrative account, and 90% going into program accounts, with 9% to statewide programs and 81% to going into the regional funding areas.

Regional Council Update

Katie Stevens, Senior Policy Specialist, Policy and Research Division, updated the Board members on the Arizona tribes that have opted to become their own region, and those deciding to stay in their designated region or county. The tribes have until March 1 to notify FTF of their decision. To date, there are nine tribes who have elected to form their own region. Five tribes have decided to remain in their designated region. Six tribes remain without a decision; if they do not make a decision by March 1 the decision is made for them and they stay in the region they are in for the next two years. At this date, there are 28 regional councils total. FTF anticipates hearing from two other tribes that have held meetings and will be sending official letters indicating their decision to form their own regions, which brings the anticipated total to 30 regional councils.

Application Status

Michelle Katona reported to the Board that the Regional Council Member applications are at 472 due to the tremendous effort everyone has put forth to identify organizations from which to recruit. Ms. Katona stated that the Board would be presented a binder in March that will be categorized by region for review and possible appointment.

Strategic Planning

Planning Process and Timeline Presentation

Elliott Hibbs reviewed with the Board an aggressive timeline that calls for decisions both today and at the March Board meeting. Mr. Hibbs reviewed the systems framework and called for possible adoption, reviewed measures for system outcomes and discussed the strategic direction that included Board feedback.

Karen Woodhouse, Deputy Director, presented an overview of the process and approach for the strategic plan discussion.

System Framework

Elliott Hibbs presented to the Board the final draft of the systems framework for consideration. After a brief Board discussion, a Motion was made by Rhian Evans Allvin, to adopt the mission, vision, guiding principles and system outcomes as shown in the framework under items 7b on the agenda with the following changes: 1) reverse the order of the mission and vision statements; 2) add all "Arizona" children; 3) delete culturally sensitive and add culturally responsive; 4) add systems approach and delete program. Seconded by Steve Lynn, Motion Carried.

System Measures Presentation

Elliott Hibbs opened with a brief discussion on system measures, goals, key measures, and recommended strategic directions.

Karen Woodhouse presented the system roadmap. Ms. Woodhouse walked through the components of the roadmap.

Staff Recommendations for Strategic Direction

BJ Tatro with BJ Tatro Consulting facilitated the presentation of staff recommendations and discussion with the board. Ms. Tatro also facilitated the discussion on funding and decision making considerations regarding potential regional and discretionary funding models.

Connie Shorr, Assistant Director, Policy and Research Division, presented a summary of all strategic directions and an overview of statewide funding recommendations.

FTF Staff presented individual rationale for statewide funding with questions or comments from the board following each presentation.

Recessed at approximately 4:05 p.m.

Day Two – February 27, 2008

Chair Mathis Basha resumed the meeting at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Nadine Mathis Basha, Rhian Evans Allvin, Pamela Powell, Vivian Saunders, Paul Luna, Gary Pasquinelli, Cecil Patterson, Gene Thompson, and Steven Lynn

Ex-Officio Members Present:

Susan Gerard and Tracy Wareing

Absent:

Amy Corriveau

Staff Recommendations for Strategic Direction

Elliott Hibbs gave a brief recap of Tuesday's discussion. Individual staff presentations continued on the rationale for statewide funding. The Board participated in a guided discussion regarding all recommended strategic directions, funding decision making options, and strategic directions recommended for statewide funding.

Future Meetings, Dates and Locations

It was determined that the next four meetings will be held at the following locations:

March 25-26	AZECDH Board Office in Phoenix, Arizona
April 22	Scottsdale Conference Center, Scottsdale, Arizona
May 20-21	Tucson, Arizona
June 24-25	Prescott, Arizona

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Mathis Basha adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.